the case. The Westerplatte remained Danzig territory. He would not like this expression to give rise to misunderstanding.

The PRESIDENT wished to thank all those who had taken part in the discussion for the help they had given him in conducting the proceedings in an orderly way

Dr. Sahm and Dr. van Hamel withdrew.

The Council went into private session.

1978. Nomination of a Fourteenth Member of the Governing Body of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law in Rome.

M. SCIALOJA, Rapporteur, requested that this item might be postponed, because the work of adapting the Villa Aldobrandini would require some time. He thought it hardly possible for the Governing Body to meet elsewhere than at its seat.

M. Titulesco had enquired whether the five years prescribed for the mandate of the Governing Body should date from the first session or from some other date. M. Scialoja personally thought that appointments to this body should date from its first meeting.

The PRESIDENT thanked M. Scialoja for his statement, which was entirely satisfactory and proposed that the Council should postpone this question.

It was decided to postpone the question.

1979. Free City of Danzig Question of a Loan for the Free City

Dr. Sahm, President of the Senate of the Free City of Danzig, Dr. van Hamel, High Commissioner of the League at Danzig, M. Pospisil, Chairman of the Financial Committee, and M. de Loes, President of the Danzig Harbour Board, came to the Council table.

Dr. SAHM, President of the Senate of the Free City of Danzig, reminded the Council that in its report of March 9th, 1927 on the financial situation of the Free City — which report had been adopted by the Council on March 10th, 1927[1] — the Financial Committee made the following statement under paragraph (*e*)

> "The Financial Committee sees no objection to the issue of a Harbour Board loan, provided the issue takes place after that of the Free City loan.

It was probable that the Free City loan would be approved by the Danzig Parliament that day at the third reading. In order, however, to prepare for all eventualities, Dr. Sahm wished to request the Council to authorise the Chairman of the Financial Committee to withdraw at the request of the Government of the Free City if the former thought necessary the condition by which the Free City loan was given priority over that for the Harbour Board.

M. STRASBURGER said that the extension of the port was a very urgent matter· the work involved was essential and advantageous both for Poland and for Danzig. Poland would be very glad if the loan for the construction of the port could be floated at the earliest possible moment. He warmly supported the proposal that the Chairman of the Financial Committee should be empowered, in case of need, to authorise the issue of the Harbour Board loan before that for the Free City

M. POSPISIL, Chairman of the Financial Committee, said that he was authorised by the Financial Committee to approve the issue of a loan on behalf of the Free City From information in his possession he was justified in believing that this loan would probably be issued at a relatively early date. If, however, contrary to all expectations, the loan could not be floated within the time-limit anticipated, an eventuality which would have the consequence of delaying the work of construction in the port, he was in a position to state, on behalf of the Financial Committee, that the latter would have no objection to falling in with the request made by the President of the Danzig Senate.

M. DE LOES, President of the Danzig Harbour Board, said that he had but little to add. In all his letters and reports he had emphasised the urgency of the work of improvement in the port of Danzig at the present time, in order to adapt the port to the exigencies of its import and export traffic, and in particular of the Polish transit traffic, which represented virtually 90 per cent of the goods passing through the port. There was a shortage of basins, and traffic was disorganised because goods had to be unloaded at various places and even the smallest available areas had to be utilised. Moreover, movement in the port was restricted. For instance, the coal trade amounted at present to 350,000 tons a month, whereas the port should be in a position to ensure the export of 600,000 tons of Silesian coal a month.

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[1] See *Official Journal*, April 1927, page 386.

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If the Harbour Board were unable to begin the work within a few weeks, it would be obliged, owing to the Danzig climate, to postpone the whole undertaking until the spring of 1928. The Board accordingly was extremely anxious to be in a position to obtain this loan immediately in order to avail itself of the four or five favourable summer and autumn months to start the hydraulic work involved. Consequently he would request that the Financial Committee, whose President had concurred in this view should authorise the Harbour Board to issue the loan as soon as possible.

The PRESIDENT stated that, as all the interested parties were in agreement, he had no doubt that the Council would gladly approve the request made by the President of the Danzig Senate.

The proposal was adopted.

1980. **Date of the Next Session of the Council.**

The Council decided that its next session should open on Thursday September 1st, 1927.

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